

Joint Annual Meeting of the
Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC)
and
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (AC)
Meeting Notes

November 7, 2014

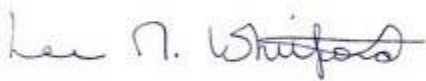
Quileute Tribal Administrative Office- west wing
La Push, WA

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by Council Chairs:



Lee Whitford, AC Chair



Ed Johnstone, IPC Chair

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Representatives in Attendance:

Ed Johnstone* (Quinault Indian Nation, IPC Chair), Joe Schumacker* (Quinault Indian Nation, staff), David Hudson* (Hoh Tribe, IPC Representative), Bernard After Buffalo (Hoh Tribe, staff), Joe Gilbertson* (Hoh Tribe, staff), Mel Moon* (Quileute Tribe, IPC Representative), Jennifer Hagen* (Quileute Tribe, staff), Steve Joner* (Makah Tribe, staff), Rob Jones (NWIFC/IPC staff) .

*indicates IPC or tribal staff that also serve on the Advisory Council as either primary or alternate members.

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), George Hart (US Navy, Secretary), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Tom Mumford (Research, Alternate), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large, Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Rich Osborne (MRC), John Stadler (NOAA-NMFS), Les Bolton (Tourism and Economic Development), Eric Delvin (Conservation), Jan Newton (Research), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), Sarah Creachbaum (NPS-ONP), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Naomi Jacobson (Quileute Tribe), Beverly Loudan (Quileute Tribe), Kelsey Gianay (WDOE), Ian Miller (WA SeaGrant), Jim Jorgensen (Quinault Indian Nation)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Jacqueline Laverdure, Karlyn Langjahr

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Vice Chair of Quileute Tribal Council Naomi Jacobson welcomed meeting participants on behalf of the Quileute Tribe and Chairman Charles Woodruff. Naomi expressed her gratitude for the science and management work of both the Intergovernmental Policy Council and Advisory Council in preserving and sustaining the marine life along the coast. She asked Dave Hudson to share a healing prayers song for the families and communities in the area. Naomi recognized Mel Moon, Director of Quileute Natural Resources and Quileute Marine Biologist Jennifer Hagen.

Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Chair Ed Johnstone thanked the Quileute Tribe for their welcome and hospitality. He reminded everyone that the natural dynamics along the coast represent a small piece of a larger system, which are essential to the four Coastal Treaty Tribes, and have been since time immemorial. He acknowledged the commitment of NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta in the creation of IPC and a commitment to do business through the IPC. He expressed the importance of tribal staff representation on the Advisory Council and that IPC sees value in sharing updates and ideas at the annual joint meetings between the two organizations.

IPC AREAS OF INTEREST

Rob Jones, on behalf of the IPC, presented an overview of the IPC's Habitat Framework as the current priority topic and a major undertaking. The Habitat Framework is based on a need for a common understanding of all information sources regarding habitat and its role in supporting marine ecosystems. The West Coast Governors Alliance is already planning to build a data portal, and the IPC wanted more than just a website to access new information; rather, they wanted a comprehensive catalog for all information to be put into the same language, which could be used to inform ecosystem-based management, identification of essential fish habitat, support marine spatial planning and more. From there, existing data gaps can be identified so co-managers know where additional information is needed.

The Habitat Framework would describe habitat in terms of density, productivity and use and indicate whether there is an absence of data and also build in other information sources. Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), the information can be layered, allowing scientists and resource managers to understand what is known and what is not known. Rob described a "habitat information pyramid", starting with the description of habitat at the base of the pyramid. Habitat may change over time or vary seasonally so information should reflect those characteristics. From the habitat description the next levels examine "What lives there?" and "What is the population size?" At the top of the pyramid is "Why is it important?"

The first step in developing the IPC's Habitat Framework involved inviting an expert panel consisting of state, tribal and federal agencies along with experts from other organizations and academia to review data and explore the proposed methodology, as laid out in a project scope of work, and then report back to the IPC. At the July 2014 IPC meeting, two priorities were identified for the short term: 1) deciding upon a marine classification scheme and 2) reviewing Washington State's efforts to compile available GIS layers, as foundational information for IPC's efforts.

The Habitat Framework is organized around the principle of the habitat information pyramid with a primary objective of cataloging known habitat types and organizing seafloor and water column associated biota into a common classification system. The group chose to use the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Coastal Marine Ecological Classification System (CMECS), and will populate the available information into CMECS.

The second step is to develop species association with each of the CMECS habitat types, comparable to a Level 1 analysis used in defining Essential Fish Habitat. This is where human-use information can be overlaid if available, including temporal aspects. The third step addresses the tip of the habitat pyramid, focusing on an understanding ecosystem relationships based on the relative contribution of habitat types.

The IPC adopted the habitat framework at its February 2014 and had further discussions on how to move forward in July 2014, so it is at the very beginning of this process. Rob emphasized the goal is for the co-managers to be able to work from the same set of data, even if policy decision from those same facts might differ.

IPC and AC members discussed the potential role for OCNMS Advisory Council in this process, as it is a specific action in the sanctuary's Management Plan. OCNMS has data on seafloor mapping, marine species, and work characterizing oceanographic conditions that drive upwelling systems that would be used. IPC expressed interest in collaborating with the Advisory Council to identify research needs and data gaps and networking for contacts and resources. IPC could give periodic presentations at SAC meetings to provide updates on work progress. If desirable, the Advisory Council could also provide a letter of support endorsing IPC's work that the superintendent could forward to ONMS and NOAA, assisting with efforts to raise funds to support this ambitious project.

Additional discussion addressed questions regarding the Habitat Framework, as summarized below:

- The geographic scope is open-ended at this point but will likely not extend beyond US-Canada border, unless data already exists. The southern boundary would likely be the Oregon and Washington border. The off-shore range is not limited currently.
- Habitat would include marine, nearshore, and estuary environments. Terrestrial habitat is not included.
- The project has significant in-kind staff support but grant funding is needed to conduct data coding to develop the crosswalks for each of the individual data sources to be compatible with the CMECS catalog.
- As more information becomes available it will be published and shared as appropriate.
- The timing of IPC's Habitat Framework does not align exactly with Washington State's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process which is slated to be completed by June 30, 2014. The state can share data and help connect the IPC with other state agencies that would have additional data.

OCNMS ADVISORY COUNCIL AREAS OF INTEREST

Lee Whitford highlighted activities that the AC has been focused on in the recent past. She reviewed the role of the AC and its primary purpose of providing advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent regarding management and protection of sanctuary resources. Lee recapped the recent turnover in AC membership and Executive Committee members and recognized long-serving AC members which provide continuity. She noted the overall in-kind time contribution of AC members in the last few years: 3,320 hours in 2012; 2,898 hours in 2013; 2,315 hours in 2014. Lee listed presentations at last year's SAC meetings made by council members. Highlights from the 2014 SAC Work Plan featured recommendation letters and final reports from both the Science Working Group and the Tourism Working Group, which were approved and adopted by council members. The Advisory Council continued their efforts to involve youth at bi-monthly meetings per the youth participation program, and efforts to

evaluate the effectiveness. AC actions and recommendations in the previous year included support letters for oceanographic monitoring, a sanctuary replacement vessel, the SAC youth participation program, the sanctuary mooring program, and reactivating the Site Evaluation List (now Sanctuary Nomination Process). Support letters from the joint IPC-SAC Ocean Acidification Working Group addressed the Washington's outer coast ocean acidification (OA) and WA state OA action priorities. Lee highlighted the importance of the continued learning by all and supporting the sanctuary through its advisory council.

AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN IPC AND AC

It was agreed that keeping communication lines open between the IPC and AC would be beneficial to both groups. Many participants emphasized the importance of strong education and outreach programs for youth; it is critical that younger generations value their marine resources and develop skills to help manage them, ensuring a healthy marine environment in the future. Topics of mutual interest also included: supporting K-12 education, seasonal oceanographic moorings and research/monitoring, and research/management to support the development of the habitat framework. Challenges were discussed, including that monitoring efforts are expensive and require a long-term vision and commitment; however, ideas were offered such as working with fishermen to conduct monitoring while they are out in the water. The two councils also highlighted that value of collaboration and thinking creatively regarding new partnerships such as connecting coastal communities with research/academic institutes.

The joint IPC/AC annual meeting concluded at 12:30pm.